The Bible League

ORIGIN AND OUTLOOK

Toronto, Ont.
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The Bible League.

THE ORIGIN OF THE LEAGUE.

SOME years ago through the investigations of a band of prominent Christian ministers, professors and laymen organized for missionary and evangelistic purposes, the startling fact was brought to light that the loss of faith in the Bible as the Word of God was one of the underlying causes of the prevalent spiritual apathy and deadness in the churches. As a result of such investigation it came to be a strong conviction on the part of many of the most thoughtful, that the unquestionable indifference of large numbers of those who came under the influence of the gospel, was clearly the inevitable issue of certain forms of rationalistic criticism of the sacred Scriptures, which boldly impugned the authority of our Divine Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in His attitude to the Old Testament writings. Testimony of un-

doubted reliability from numerous quarters was also forthcoming that young men were giving up the idea of entering the Christian ministry, because by the undermining of their faith in the Divine Oracles during their college course they felt that they had no direct authoritative message from God to give to the people. Business men, some of them not professing Christians, declared that such tampering with the veracity of the Bible was subversive of the most cherished institutions of our civilization. Confronted by this serious crisis in the onward progress of the Church of Christ, the organization now called "The Bible League of North America" was formed, with headquarters in New York City. Some of the most prominent men of the continent in educational, professional and business circles are among its officers and directors. The Toronto Branch was organized over a year ago, and has just held a most successful Conference, in which exceedingly able men in various departments of Biblical study and research took part. The attendance of professors,

ministers, students, and those in other walks of life was very large, and the enthusiasm very gratifying.

THE PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE.

The purpose of the League, to which the directors will adhere unflinchingly, is to avoid all controversy regarding Bible study and criticism. Its object is purely *educational.* It does not propose to place critics of the Scriptures in any category inasmuch as such classification would be as changeful as their changing and frequently discarded opinions. It purposes *to avoid all personalities*, but to deal fairly and faithfully with the written statements of those whom it regards as teaching doctrines derogatory to the infallibility of Christ and the truth of the Scriptures. Its purpose is *mainly constructive* and it proposes by addresses and lectures, given by some of the best Biblical scholars and teachers to present "the other side," which is clearly opposed to "the destructive side" of that criticism, which has been working out its hypotheses during

the past quarter of a century. It proposes to *protect the young in schools and colleges*, as far as possible, from misleading teachings regarding the Bible. It will feel called upon to draw attention to the curricula of such colleges which are manifestly one-sided as regards text books and general bibliography. Finally, it is its purpose to *publish and distribute small booklets* on Biblical questions of special interest.

THE PLATFORM OF THE LEAGUE.

The League holds to the historic faith of the Church in the Old and New Testaments in their entirety, as the divinely inspired record of God's graciously and supernaturally revealed plan of redemption for a sinful and lost race, accepting this upon the testimony of Jesus Christ as the chief witness and of the prophets and apostles as His especially authorized co-witnesses.

THE AIM OF THE LEAGUE.

In this faith the League seeks to promote *the use of the Bible* for devout reading and

study, and *its reverent investigation and interpretation* in humble dependence upon the Holy Spirit, and with the aid of true scholarship and the well-attested facts and discoveries of science.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LEAGUE.

The League will from time to time recommend the works of certain writers and will aim to secure the services at all its meetings and conferences of speakers who will deal fairly and in a true Christian spirit with all the questions to be discussed, but *it does not hold itself responsible for every single utterance made by such writers and speakers.* All members of the League and all speakers on its platform may not see eye to eye as to any single theory of inspiration, or as to any single scientific method of investigating the Scriptures. but all will certainly unite in opposing all purely rationalistic criticism, which depreciates in any way whatever the authority and infallibility of our Divine Saviour, Jesus Christ, or His divinely commissioned and inspired apostles.

THE SPIRIT OF THE LEAGUE

It is sincerely hoped that the Spirit of Christ, who is the Spirit of Love, may so control all who have the interests of the League at heart that they may so hold forth the Word of Life, so speak the truth in love, and so boldly, faithfully, wisely, and withal lovingly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, that both the habit of devout meditation upon the "sacred writings," and of truly reverent and scholarly investigation of the same may be promoted, and thereby increasing numbers have their faith in the divine origin, integrity, and supreme authority of the Bible established and reassured.

THE APPEAL OF THE LEAGUE

The League appeals to all who love the Bible, and who wish to stand for its integrity and truthfulness, to become members of the organization, as one of the best means of furthering the cause of our Risen and Glorified Lord. It also appeals to all those who, while often claimed by the rational-

istic critics as on their side, yet have more in common with their brethren who are trying to defend the Divine Oracles, to unite with the League in this enterprise. The supernatural character of Israel's and the Church's history, the presence of the Divine Spirit in the Word of God, the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the superhuman origin of His humanity, the atoning death of the Son of God and Son of Man, and the Messianic and prophetic character of the Divine revelation of the Lord of glory, are surely more important than the changing and uncertain theories of a destructive criticism, based so largely on conjectures instead of facts, and working hypotheses, which are being steadily discredited in the very realm of scientific study, in which they were originally developed. "What is the chaff to the wheat?" It is to be fondly hoped that, ere long, the League may be needed only for the constructive side of its work in the exposition and application of sacred Scripture to the tremendous needs and problems of our times.

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The Literature of the League may be obtained at the Book Rooms of this City or by sending word to the Literature Secretary.

Applications for membership may be made to the Secretary, or any member of the Executive.